

VZCZCXRO1312  
OO RUEHAST RUEHDH RUEHHM RUEHLN RUEHMA RUEHPB RUEHPOD RUEHTM RUEHTRO  
DE RUEHCP #0278 1681403  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 171403Z JUN 09  
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5013  
INFO RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE  
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 9019  
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 5574  
RUEHRK/AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK 0486  
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 3901  
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN 1549  
RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA 0867  
RUEHVL/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS 1661  
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 2122  
RUEHLN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG 0350  
RUEHAG/AMCONSUL HAMBURG 0066

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 000278

SIPDIS  
SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [ENRG](#) [KGHG](#) [SENV](#) [DA](#)  
SUBJECT: DENMARK STILL AFTER TOP IRENA JOB

REF: State 59969

1. (SBU) REO conveyed reftel points on possible U.S. membership of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) to Danish officials in the Foreign and Climate ministries on June 17. Danish officials warmly welcomed U.S. interest in joining IRENA.

2. (SBU) Mads Emil Sterk, Head of Section in the Foreign Ministry's Office of Environment, Energy and Climate told us that Denmark has withdrawn its bid to host the IRENA HQ, and supports Bonn instead. Sterk noted that Denmark was aware the UAE bid was attracting support, and acknowledged U.S. arguments in favor. Denmark will support the German bid in recognition of German leadership in support of the founding of IRENA. Asked if Bonn had unified EU support, Sterk said "not yet."

3. (SBU) Sterk said Denmark remained keen on the top IRENA job and has nominated Hans Jorgen Koch, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Danish Ministry of Climate and Energy, for the IRENA Director General position. Sterk pledged to share Koch's CV and qualifications with us shortly (we will forward to action offices in Washington upon receipt). Sterk said Koch had played prominent roles in international renewable energy cooperation efforts, including chairing the IRENA founding conference in Bonn. According to Sterk, Koch is competing with candidates from Greece, France, Spain and possibly Nigeria (the latter candidacy may be disputed on procedural grounds). In addition to deciding the DG position, an initial work program drafted by committee will also be discussed at the June 29-30 meeting in Egypt, he said.

4. (SBU) Denmark largely agrees with the U.S. vision of the IRENA mission, including the need to avoid duplication (he mentioned the IEA), align IRENA with energy promotion and technology diffusion efforts, and to build capacity in developing countries through the exchange of best practices and policy options. The latter might feature in discussions at the Egypt meeting on regional centers for IRENA in the developing world, Sterk said. The centers would focus on the particular challenges in each region in the development and deployment of renewable energy sources.

5. (SBU) Comment: Koch is well and favorably known to the Embassy, and spoke at the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference in March 2008. Denmark is a leader in renewable energy development and deployment, with special expertise in wind power. Denmark is also a leader in global climate negotiations in the run-up to COP-15, which it will host.

MCCULLEY